RB, HR, PH, JW ohug Oswald, Pistol

Bob Smith/CTIA "CASH REWARD" Memo of 7/22/72 Harold Weisberg 7/25/72

This is not intended for further distribution or comment on the opinions I express. The divisions and bitterness are already too great. But some of you may not get this great offer of a cash reward and Bob will, being as serious as he is, send copies.

He/they apparently think one of the great unknown mysteries of the JFK assassination, worth "hours attempting to identify this publication without success", is learning the publication from which that ad was clipped. The Symbol is AM3, presumably A_____ M*****_____3 (I wonder if there is an American Marksman?)

When one investigates an investigation, and any inquiry into the JFK assassination makes this indispensible, there is almost nothing not legitimate. My query is whether this is any kind of priority item, whether "hours" of work spent on this are better spent on this than other remaining mysteries and doubts. Especially when there remains no proof connecting the pistol with the crime and existing proofs, as a matter of legal evidence, ate negative.

It reminds me of Bob's trip here ostensibly to go over my rifle and ammo file, but he spent it all on explosive bullets, not having determined whether the available evidence rules their use out or whether the existing conditions present any reason for using them. That day, perhaps unrelated, I almost chopped a thumb off.

This, to me, is one of the reasons the CTIA has spent all this time and money and come up with nothing new of which I know. They merely lust for the files of others, on the general theory that because Bud has the money, organized this committee and has the noblest of intentions, he owns the subject, as did Lane and Garrison before him.

Suppozedly Bob is broke. So he offers a $25.00 reward for s specimen of the ad and $10 for identification of the publication.

For those of you who wonder at my seemingly low boiling point or what some may regard as intolerance and what sometimes gome back to me as a fatherly or avuncular attitude, I invite independent assessment of this as an item of such priority. If there is no disagreement, perhaps you can better understand why I am anxious that my material not be used by others without my assent and why I have cut off from so many.

Perhaps also there is a continuinf explanation of the Bud/CTIA failure for more than two years after agreeing to it to return what Bud got from me on the promise it would not ever get into CTIA files or hands and the return of what he got from me as my lawyer, which he after agreeing to return all earlier stuff because I had stipulated no CTIA connection, also put in CTIA files.

That Sroague alone misused it is more than enough. That others also did is worse. That there has been no response to my last letter of about three weeks ago you can evaluate for yourselves.

Now this is Bud and Bob and a board and members and sometimes helpers - and they are offering a reward for THIS - after wasted hours.

This is not to say they are completely without accomplishment. They won a suit they kept secret from me until after it was before the court. In the last minute before hearing the government gave them the three duplicates of Odum Exhibit 1 referred to in CD566. They did not sue for the picture allegedly showing Oswald. Bud has not been anxious to brag of this capitulation or show me the pictures. im says they are more severaly cropped than either available version. Now they may sue for the ones said to show Oswald.

Of such the kindom and the glory.

Of such the history of our great successes.

HW